

# Bay Trail Rider

Spring 2003



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL PROJECT, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

## Hot off the Press: New Bay Trail Maps



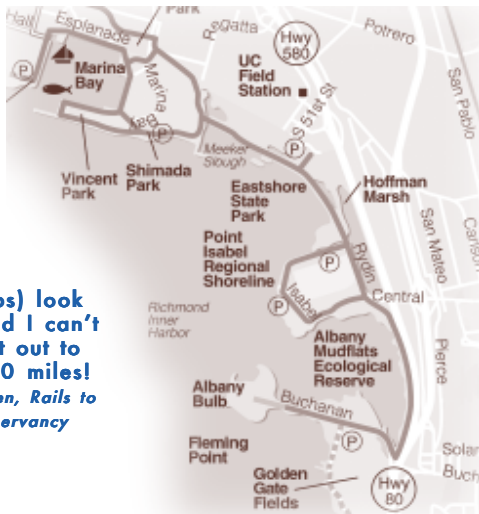
After much anticipation, **new Bay Trail maps** have arrived in time for spring exploration. These beautiful and informative **full-color** maps guide walkers, bikers, rollerbladers, bird watchers, and other outdoor enthusiasts along over 230 miles of completed trail. One look at the maps should convince you how much of The Bay Trail is ready and waiting for shoreline adventures.

For those already familiar with the Bay Trail, the new maps will enhance trail experience with details for trip planning and ideas for new routes. And, the new maps will, as Bay Trail board member Bruce Beyaert notes, “help get many more people out there exploring and enjoying the Bay Trail.”

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**Right:** sample section from East Bay map.



...(the maps) look beautiful and I can't wait to get out to ride all 230 miles!  
—Amanda Eaken, *Rails to Trails Conservancy*

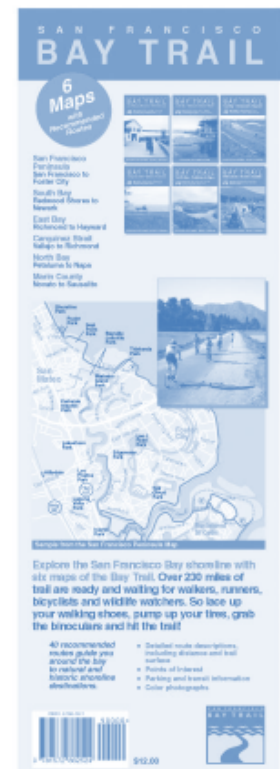
San Francisco and San Pablo Bay shorelines, with trail through all nine Bay Area counties. Maps provide extensive details, including: natural and cultural points of interest, parks and open space, public transit, marinas and boat launches, fishing piers, and parking areas. The maps distinguish between on-and off-street trail to help you decide if you want to take the kids for a stroll or plan a long-distance bicycle ride.

Perhaps even more compelling are the map backs, which feature recommended routes, alluring photographs, and illustrations that provide a snapshot of the trail experience. Each recommended route is followed by details about distance, trail surface and conditions, points of interest, and parking and transit information.

If you're looking to take a stroll, bicycle ride, or family excursion along the shoreline, look no further than these brand new Bay Trail maps.

To purchase the new Bay Trail maps, visit [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org) or call the Association of Bay Area Governments at 510/464-7900. The map set is priced at \$12.00 and individual maps at \$3.00, plus tax and shipping.

*Map design and printing was made possible by financial support from the State Coastal Conservancy, with funds from Proposition 12: The Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000.*



**Above:** The new full-color Bay Trail maps are sold as a set of six and come conveniently packaged in a waterproof plastic holder.

## Sonoma County Study Explores New Alignment Opportunities



Options to extend the existing Port Sonoma trail shown above are being considered as part of the Sonoma Corridor Study. Photo courtesy of Sonoma County Regional Parks.

The **North Bay** presents unique challenges for the Bay Trail because the adopted alignment follows busy, unsafe highways located far away from the bay shoreline. But, recent changes in land ownership and proposals for wetland restoration present new opportunities to reassess the Bay Trail alignment the North Bay. The Bay Trail Board of Directors' winter meeting focused on North Bay issues and a Bay Trail grant-funded study by Sonoma County Regional Parks to identify a new off-street Bay Trail spine alignment along the Highway 37 corridor.

**Steve Ehret**, Sonoma County Regional Parks Planner, presented an overview of the study to the Board and identified several preliminary alignment alternatives. Extensive amounts of data from property owners and land managers were collected and entered into a geographic information system (GIS) for analysis. Next, the County will evaluate alternatives against established trail alignment criteria, select a feasible preferred alignment, and estimate costs for construction.

After the presentation, representatives from several agencies shared details about projects along the corridor. **Tom Gandesbery** from the Coastal Conservancy discussed the Sonoma Baylands Tidal Marsh Restoration project near Port Sonoma and plans for levee trail construction south of Highway 37. **Mike Parker** of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service provided an overview of proposed levee breaching around Tubbs Island, including possible realignment of the trail around the perimeter of the island, connecting Tolay Creek and Sonoma Creek. Parker also discussed plans for the Cullinan Ranch wetland restoration project along Highway 37 in Solano County, which includes possible levee trail construction north of the highway. **Chuck Morton** of Caltrans reviewed plans for viewing platforms and a trail connection under Highway 37 at Sonoma Creek to be constructed as mitigation for road improvements. Lastly, **Jim Swanson** of the California Department of Fish & Game discussed plans for restoration of the West End Duck Club between the Sonoma Creek Bridge and Skaggs Island.

Board members and guests continued the discussion of alignment alternatives during a field tour of southern Sonoma County. Stops along the tour included Sonoma Baylands, the terminus of Reclamation Road at the railroad crossing, the intersection of Sonoma Creek and Highway 37 (where Caltrans viewing platforms will be constructed), and the southern entrance to Skaggs Island.

The meeting and tour provided board members with a chance to become familiar with the opportunities and challenges of an off-street trail alignment in the North Bay. The results of the Sonoma Corridor Study will provide the Bay Trail Project with valuable information to move towards completion in the North Bay.

For more information about the Sonoma Corridor Study, contact Bay Trail Planner Laura Thompson at 510/464-7909 or [laurat@abag.ca.gov](mailto:laurat@abag.ca.gov).

## New Partnership to Create Educational Birding Materials



### San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

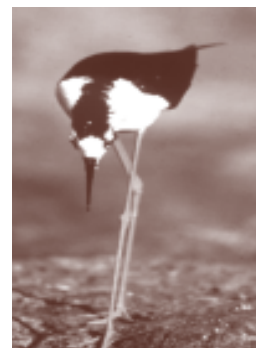
(SFBBO), a nonprofit research organization with a focus on

birds of the Bay, recently received a Bay Trail grant to work with Bay Trail staff to develop educational materials that will highlight the plethora of existing birding resources along the Bay Trail. The **Bay Trail Bird Walk** program is modeled after other successful worldwide "Bird Trail" programs intended to highlight extraordinary birding spots.

The first phase of the program is a call for nominations. SFBBO is asking all interested birders, trail users, wildlife watchers, and nature lovers to nominate their favorite birding spot (or spots!) along the Bay Trail. SFBBO will then use a set of criteria to identify a representative set of routes for publication in a brochure and on the Bay Trail website. Additional educational information about birds and their habitat will be created to supplement the routes.

To nominate a site, log on to SFBBO's website at [www.sfbbo.org](http://www.sfbbo.org) and look for the *Bay Trail Bird Walk* link.

For more information, contact Bay Trail Planner Melissa Barry at 510/464-7919.



American Avocet, Courtesy of SFBBO.

## Words of Thanks to Bay Trail Visionaries

*Recently, an incoming e-mail to the Bay Trail Project brightened our day. It was an eloquent request to express thanks to all who have worked to create the Bay Trail. East Bay citizen **Seth Melchert** subsequently penned letters to elected officials, key agency partners, ABAG, and Bay Trail Board members, among others. Below is an excerpt from the letter.*

"...A few weeks ago, on a whim, I took my son and his cousin on an afternoon bike ride on the Bay Trail between San Leandro and Hayward. (I had read an article in Bay Nature Magazine featuring the Bay Trail). I expected to be confronted with junky and degraded views of an environment wrecked by industrial abuse. Instead I was overwhelmed by the richness and beauty of the mudflats and Bay. There were shorebirds by the hundreds. Ducks and egrets dabbled in the inland tidal marshes. We watched as a hawk swooped and caught a mouse. Yes, the industrial underpinnings are apparent and there is yet a lot of clean up needed, but it seemed as if the natural pulse of the ecosystem is reclaiming its place. I got a sense that someday we may actually witness the enormous clouds of migratory fowl and other wildlife re-inhabit this area that so overwhelmed the first European explorers. It means that your work takes its place as a historic act.

I grew up in the East Bay, and my contact with the Bay has been mostly from a whizzing car on a nearby freeway, or else visits to man-made environments...I had not realized one could experience the ecological richness and feel the life that serves at the core of this extraordinary place so intimately. By having the Bay Trail, we citizens can experience the Bay as a living ecosystem in a direct and potent way..."

*Thanks to Seth for taking the time to recognize our many supporters.*

## Bay Trail Board News

The Bay Trail Board recently welcomed two new Directors, **Helena "Lenka" Culik-Caro** and **Lynn Favaro**. Culik-Caro is Caltrans' Deputy District Director for Transportation Planning and Local Assistance (District 4). Her related responsibilities include bicycle planning, transit and community planning, and grant administration; she also serves as liaison to the nine Congestion Management Agencies and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Favaro is a Conservation Administrator with the Pacific Bays Service District of the California Conservation Corps. She has over 20 years of experience with the Corps, and has partnered with the Bay Trail on construction grants employing Corps members.

Bay Trail Board and staff bid farewell to retiring Directors **Tom McDonnell**, Caltrans, and **Joe Griffin**, California Conservation Corps. We thank them for their years of service on the Board.

## Carquinez Bridge Making History

**T**he **Bay Area's newest toll bridge** is emerging piece by piece over the Carquinez Strait, just west of the existing span. The new arched-cable bridge is making history on two counts:

- 1) it is the first suspension span built in the Bay Area since the Golden Gate opened in 1937, and
- 2) it will offer a long-awaited Bay Trail connection between Crockett (and western Contra Costa County) and Vallejo.

The 12-foot wide bicycle and pedestrian path will complete the western link of an ultimate Bay Trail circuit around Carquinez Strait, opening up terrific recreation and alternative commuting possibilities between Solano and Contra Costa counties. The bridge is scheduled to open October 2003.

In addition to the bridge pathway, Caltrans will build vista points on both the north and south sides of the span that will offer expansive views of Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay. To the north, sidewalks and bike lanes on Maritime Academy Drive and a shared-use path along Highway 29 will provide access to an improved staging area at Carquinez Park in Vallejo. To the south, a new park between the Crockett on- and off-ramps will include trees, benches, and special butterfly habitat.



The new span of the Carquinez Bridge under construction. Photo courtesy of BCDC.



## Farley Cartoonist Phil Frank "Draws" Winning Entry

**W**e extend our thanks to everyone who responded to the Bay Trail's year-end solicitation. It was the first time in over five years that the Bay Trail Project reached out to our friends for financial support. We collected over 50 contributions, together totaling more than \$3,000. Half of the donors gave over \$100, and received a set of the new Bay Trail maps in return for their generosity. The donations will be used to foster outreach and education efforts throughout the region.



Phil Frank selects the winning entry.

Donors were entered into a raffle for an original Farley trail cartoon drawing by Bay Area artist **Phil Frank**. The artwork was donated to the Bay Trail Project by Victoria Eisen. Phil recently "drew" the raffle winner on the Bay shore in Sausalito. . . drum roll please . . . long time Bay Trail supporters **Bill and Bonnie Bliss!**

### Paden Elementary School (Alameda) Students Develop Trail Design Options

A new Bay Trail spur extending off of Central Avenue in Alameda would offer improved public access and enhanced educational opportunities for **Paden Elementary School**, taking advantage of the school's Bayside location for hands-on environmental and science exploration.

A feasibility and preliminary design study has been made possible by an \$18,000 Bay Trail planning grant. **David Gates & Associates** is leading the study along with a Steering Committee of parents, school administrators and staff, and Alameda Recreation and Park Commission representatives.

The study itself is a learning exercise for students, allowing a first-hand experience of a collaborative planning and design process. Student teams displayed remarkable creativity and design savvy. Favored themes include: incorporating vibrant color into trail, fencing and structural materials, water elements such as fountains, ample use of vegetation, an outdoor classroom amphitheater, floating docks, and prominent display of the school mascot - the Pelican. Study results are expected in early summer 2003.

*For more information, contact Bay Trail Project Manager Janet McBride at 510/464-7935*

### Thanks to all our Recent Donors

#### Trail Friends (up to \$50)

Lawrence and Liv Ames, Claudia Avedikian, Carolyn Balling, Robert Berman, Peter and Gertrude Blasberg, Tom Branca, Nancy Cytron, Thomas Demgen, Charles DeRoshia, Bill DeVore, Diana Dong, Gus Dorrough, Ellen Fletcher, Spring Friedlander, Wilbur Hoff, Kathy Hoffman, Kathryn Hughes, the Hunter Family, Minane Jameson, Karla Jones, Ann Killebrew, Susan Lipsetz, Sylvia McLaughlin, Jim Mullarkey, Anne Ng, Rob Powell, Dennis Taugher, Bessie Udell, Richard Wood

#### Trail Champions (\$50 - \$99)

Edward Bennett, David Brown, Rosemary and Douglas Corbin, Bruno Davis, Fremont Freewheelers Bicycle Club, Howard Friesen, John Langbein, Al Lipsetz, Judy Malamut, Jim and Noeline McBride, John McCabe, Jean B. Siri, Revan Tranter

#### Trail Builders (\$100 - \$250)

Bruce and Sandra Beyaert, Bill and Bonnie Bliss, Alvin Lee Block, Robert and Patricia Brown, Stuart H. Brown, Melanie Bruner, Doris Graesser, B. Hoffman, Jill and Ron Keimach, Bill Long, Myla Lyons, Steve McAdam, James McGrath, John Roberts, Edward and Ann Schwabecher, Dick and Jerry Smallwood, Ted Stahr, Jean Starkweather, Valero Refining Company, Valley Spokesmen, Don Weden

#### Trail Blazers (\$250 and above)

Jerry Barker, Kris Hill, Shanna O'Hare



Young trail enthusiasts review student team designs for a possible Bay Trail spur around Paden Elementary School in Alameda.

# Along The Bay Trail

## NAPA

Construction of the new **Maxwell Bridge** over the Napa River is now underway. With a Bay Trail grant of \$250,000, the Caltrans bridge will provide improved pedestrian and bicycle access in the form of wider sidewalks and striped bike lanes. The bridge pathway will connect to the Napa River Trail through John F. Kennedy Memorial Park in the city of Napa.

## SOLANO



California Conservation Corps members construct a new path in Benicia State Recreation Area. Photo by Dee Swanhuysen, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council.

California Conservation Corps members are busy blazing new trails in **Benicia State Recreation Area**, as part of a project made possible by a \$100,000 Bay Trail grant, and additional funds from the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and the Trust for Public Land. The shared Bay Trail/

Ridge Trail alignment will extend around the outer edge of the hills on the west side of the park for expansive views of the Strait. A wider and more direct pathway skirts the hill to the future park at Glen Cove. The project will be completed this spring and a formal dedication is planned for the summer.

## MARIN

Construction of **bike lanes on Bridgeway through downtown Sausalito** will soon be complete. Working with a Bay Trail grant of \$299,000 and other funding sources, Sausalito will improve one of the most popular segments of the Bay Trail with the addition of two miles of striped bike lanes. The first segment between Princess and Napa Streets will be complete in June, and the segment between Napa and Gate 6 Road will be complete in October.

## SAN FRANCISCO

The City of San Francisco is currently updating the official **San Francisco Bike Plan**. The Department of Parking and Traffic, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition are jointly conducting public workshops and developing recommendations for the plan. With construction of the MUNI Third Street light rail currently underway, considerations include re-aligning a north-south Bay Trail alignment to take the trail off Third Street and addressing opportunities for an improved trail alignment in the Bayview and Hunters Point neighborhoods.

## SAN FRANCISCO (CONT.)

In January 2003, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and the Port of San Francisco initiated a joint planning process for the **Fisherman's Wharf** area. The study seeks to complete a comprehensive update of BCDC and Port special area plan policies for the wharf area through review of past plans and extensive public input. Bay Trail staff is involved in the planning process to assist in strengthening the policies for pedestrian and bicycle access through the wharf.

## SAN MATEO

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game recently released a joint Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the **Bair Island Restoration and Management Plan**. The proposed action includes full tidal inundation of Inner, Middle, and Outer Bair Islands. A 2.7-mile levee trail on Inner Bair Island would provide access for bicyclists and pedestrians, with an orientation kiosk and viewing/environmental education platforms at the ends of the trail. Stay tuned for the Draft EIR/EIS, which is expected in June 2003.

## ALAMEDA

Thanks to the East Bay Regional Park District, and a \$134,000 Bay Trail grant, bicyclists and pedestrians can now cross **Damon Slough**. The slough, located across the highway from Oakland's Network Coliseum, was a key gap in linking the Bay Trail along the Oakland waterfront and out to Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park. Construction of this new Bay Trail segment involved paving 1,000 feet of new trail and converting an abandoned railroad bridge over Damon Slough.

Berkeley's long-awaited Bay Trail construction along the **I-80 frontage road** is coming to a close, and the results are impressive. A paved path perfect for biking and skating and a soft sand shoulder for walking and jogging sit snugly between a landscaped berm and the water. It is now possible to travel on 10 miles of almost uninterrupted trail from Point Emery to Richmond's Marina Bay (It's necessary to skirt through the parking lot at Golden Gate Fields).

Excitement is building in **Oakland**, as more and more attention is turning to the waterfront. The Bay Trail provided funding and has been working with City staff and the community on a study to consider a new shoreline alignment along 19-plus miles between Jack London Square and 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The study will be complete this Spring, coinciding nicely with the recently passed Measure DD which will provide funding in coming years to design and construct this new Bay Trail segment.

## Mark Your Calendar...

### Point San Pablo Hike, July 12, 2003, 9:00 am

Join **David Dolberg** of Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC) on this hike sponsored by the Muir Heritage Land Trust. Dolberg will lead hikers to a little-known part of the Point San Pablo peninsula for beautiful views of the Bay. From I-580 west, take the Point Molate exit, just before the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge. Follow signs to Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor. Bring water and comfortable walking shoes. Call the Land Trust office at 925/228-5460 to make reservations (required) or obtain more information.

### California Walking and Bicycling Conference October 15-17, 2003

Oakland will host the first Statewide Conference on Bicycling and Walking—October 15-17, 2003. Expect Bay Trail tours and topics among the conference offerings. Visit <http://www.calbike.org/conference.htm> for emerging details.

## San Francisco Bay Trail Project

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**BAY TRAIL RIDER**, the newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, highlights the progress and development of the Bay Trail. If you are receiving duplicate copies or would like to be added or removed from the mailing list, write (at above address) or e-mail Melissa Barry ([MelissaB@abag.ca.gov](mailto:MelissaB@abag.ca.gov)). Please indicate whether you wish to be added or removed in the subject line and include your full name and address.

## New Bay Trail Grants

### Sausalito Bridgeway Bike Lanes

The City of Sausalito will use a \$109,066 Bay Trail grant to construct bike lanes and pedestrian improvements on Bridgeway between Princess and Napa streets. The project will make improvements to the primary downtown road, which already serves as a popular route for commuter and recreational bicyclists. In combination with a Bay Trail grant allocated last year, the project will complete two miles of bike lanes, linking the Sausalito ferry terminal and the Bay Trail in Mill Valley.

### Cuttings Wharf Road Bike Lanes

Napa County recently received a \$140,000 Bay Trail grant to construct bike lanes along Cuttings Wharf Road between Highway 121 and Las Amigas Avenue. A future phase of the project will extend the bike lanes Cuttings Wharf itself, a public boat dock on the Napa River.

### Don Edwards Refuge Tidelands Trail

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will use a \$14,720 Bay Trail grant to complete pre-construction design, including grading and resurfacing, to make the tidelands loop trail at the Don Edwards refuge universally accessible (including wheelchair riders, strollers, etc.)



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